

Point of View: Third Person

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

first-person point of view: when the narrator is a character in the story and uses pronoun, such as *I*, and *we*

third-person point of view: when the narrator is **not** a character in the story; uses pronouns, such as *he* and *she*

third-person limited point of view: when the narrator is **not** a character in the story; uses pronouns, such as *he*, *she*, *his*, and *her*; narrator tells only what **one** character thinks, feels, and observes

third-person omniscient point of view: when the narrator is **not** a character in the story; uses pronouns, such as *he*, *she*, *his*, and *her*; narrator can tell the thoughts, feelings, motives, and experiences of **all** the characters in the story

HERE'S HOW

Step 1: Identify the narrator and the point of view. Ask: Who is telling the story?

- **First Person:** The narrator participates in the action of the story and uses pronouns, such as *I*, and *we*.
- **Third Person:** The narrator is an outside observer and uses pronouns, such as *he* and *she*.

Step 2: For third person, identify third-person omniscient or third-person limited.

- **Omniscient:** The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of *all* the characters in the story.
- **Limited:** The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings only of *one* character in the story.

Step 3: Analyze the point of view. Ask: How does the point of view affect the story? How does the narrator's perspective affect the way you, the reader, interpret the events and characters? How would the story be different if it were told from another point of view?

EXAMPLE: THIRD-PERSON POINT OF VIEW

Find the clues that help you identify the point of view in the passage:

When *he* was seven, Jeremy's mother decided *he* should learn to play golf. *She thought* it was a good way to "build character." *Jeremy thought* it was the dulllest sport on the planet.

Note the use of *he* and *she*.

The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of both Jeremy and Jeremy's mother.